

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3 – 5 are pending. Claim 19 has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to:

i) Replace the phrase “that same” with “such that said regions which are clear of the cam regions”, as kindly suggested by the examiner.

ii) Recite that kneading and/or upsetting such that said regions which are clear of the cam regions are increased in thickness and/or are stretched to form “bearing faces, drive and/or control elements.” This is supported by paragraph [0016] of the specification.

Claim 4 has been clarified to recite, *inter alia*, “bearing faces are produced between the cams by internal high pressure forming by expanding the tube.” The examiner is however thanked for his suggestion.

New Claim 19 is directed to a cam shaft wherein one of its ends is formed closed by the kneading process prior to high internal pressure forming. This is supported by Figure 4, which shows the upper end of the shaft as being closed by the kneading process prior to high internal pressure forming while the end at the bottom of the shaft remains open in order to allow introducing the pressure fluid.

Objection to the Drawings:

Applicant has deleted the recitation of “internal and/or external screw threads” from claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The amendments made to claim 1 and 4 (above) are believed to overcome these objections.

Claim Rejections

The rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable variously over Suzuki, and Jordan or Dawson is respectfully traversed. These references alone, or in combination, do not teach or suggest, forming from the shaft itself "bearing faces, drive and/or control elements" in a first method step prior to the high internal pressure forming step. Here Suzuki shows only that bulged parts for fixation of the end caps to the shaft are formed. Jordan and Dawson are also silent on this limitation. Accordingly, these claims should be allowed.

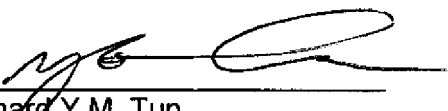
Claim 19 is separately traversed. In addition to the above arguments, the combination of prior art do not also teach or suggest a cam shaft wherein one of its ends is formed closed by the kneading process prior to high internal pressure forming. Indeed, Suzuki does not disclose, or suggest, forming a close end of his shaft prior to the step of high internal pressure forming, but rather discloses shaft ends 'closed' with end caps (4 and 5) not formed from the shaft itself. The advantage of having one end of the cam shaft formed closed, prior to high internal pressure, is that it ensures a tight fit so that fluid does not leak out. Accordingly, the risk of pressure collapse is minimized.

Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3881. If an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3881. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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